

Letters

Release me

I was wondering if some kind intruder could break into our building and release me. After all, I've been in the University of Oregon experiment since 1967.

Henry Dizney
Professor, educational psychology

Commendation

I just wanted to commend all of you who are smart enough not to wear a helmet when riding your scooter or motorcycle.

I watched you all summer, and now I understand why not wearing a helmet is so much better than wearing one. Like, your hair doesn't get messed up. You can wear some pink bows in it while you cruise, thus looking massively cute. And I can't think of a cooler way to dry your hair.

You can see and hear better (since my peripheral vision doesn't cover the back of my head, I wear a helmet anyway). You can hold conversations with your passenger while traveling, and even turn around to see them while you talk.

Another real biggie is the bitchin' tan you get when you ride scantily clad. A helmet would look pretty stupid with a bikini, wouldn't it?

Besides that, who can afford to lay out 80 bucks for a plastic hat that's only good for one thing?

Anyway, how could you get hurt on anything with an innocuous sounding name like "scooter"? (Isn't that what they call those things little kids ride on?)

In fact, one guy showed me exactly how smart it is to ride sans helmet this summer. I met him while I was riding on the freeway, and I know that he was truly smart because I could see his brains on the road and on the wheels of the truck that hit him.

Julie Crist
Journalism

Bad news

I was sitting outside the fishbowl area last fall and had just opened up a Commentator for the first time. Before I could even scan a page, an unidentified student walked by, snatched the paper from my hands, said "Don't read that crap," and actually threw it away. Having never had the pleasure of an acquaintance with the Commentator, I was shocked by his reaction, but interested too. So I promptly pulled the paper out of the trash can. I picked through the paper, was suffi-

ciently horrified and resolved to take a closer look at other University publications.

Help. Has the Willamette Valley nothing better to offer than The Register-Guard? Journalism is supposedly a U of O specialty, but so far there isn't a reasonably "objective" news outlet to be found. Try keeping intelligently informed with no television and only The Register-Guard to read! Your patience is taxed every day.

Michael Dawson had it right when he mentioned "USA Today," "the Emerald," and "swill" all in one breath (ODE, Oct. 22). A half-page complete with graphic dedicated to "Fear of bugs evident in college students?" Seriously? Sadly, this makes one lose faith in the human interest story and the Emerald's potential.

Diane Beck
Romance languages

Nuke waste

It's very hard to find any kind of rational discussion on nuclear waste. This mainly stems from the fact that most people know nothing about it in the first place, and this allows others to present outright lies and half-truths about waste and get away with it. This becomes evident in the Emerald's editorial on Oct. 23. Here is

what was stated:

1. "Re-racking spent fuel rods close together in the same pool may cause them to 'go critical' and go off in a nuclear explosion." Fact: The only way this could happen is if the plutonium and uranium were extracted from the rods, purified, surrounded by tons of TNT and exploded. The only result of re-racking the rods closer together is that the water in the pool gets warmer, and warmth does not cause the waste to "go critical."

2. "There is serious doubt whether we have the technology to safely dispose of nuclear waste." Fact: The technology already exists! The waste can be solidified, fused with glass and made into rods one foot in diameter and placed in sealed steel cylinders. They are then buried in natural salt flats, which are known to be stable for many millions of years.

I would encourage anyone who wants a rational discussion on nuclear waste and is really concerned about other nuclear issues to read two articles in Scientific American magazine (Jan., 1976 and June, 1977). They can be found in the science library.

Frederick Leff
Eugene



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